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Pursue clues in decades-old disappearance

 Ashley Lawrence
 Staff Writer

Romulus police may soon know what happened to a woman who disappeared 28 years ago, thanks to a tip by a man who said he wanted to clear his conscience.

According to Lt. John Leacher of the Romulus Police Department, a man came into the station two months ago asking to speak to a detective about a crime he had knowledge of, but did not commit.

The crime was the disappearance of a Romulus woman. She was reported missing 28 years ago by her now-ex-husband, Henry Penny.

Police said that Penny and his ex-wife, Ophelia, were in the middle of a bitter divorce when she disappeared.

Penny told police then that she had run off with a doc-

tor, leaving him and their children behind.

That's not what happened, according to the man who visited the police station. Leacher said he told investigators that Penny, along with other members of the family, had something to do with the disappearance of the woman. He also told police that he knew where her body was buried.

"Since this man came into the station, we have done a lot of research on the case and putting everything together to determine if he was credible," said Leacher. "We have not been able to find any signs of this woman contacting any member of her family during the last 28 years. She has also never applied for a credit card or changed her name. She just vanished."



Romulus police searched a garage Tuesday trying to determine if a corpse was buried underneath the structure.

See **Police**, page 3

Second suspect sought in apartment break-in

 Ashley Lawrence
 Staff Writer

Romulus police have made one arrest and are still searching for a suspect in connection with a home invasion and armed robbery that took place last week.

Two Romulus residents in an apartment on the 15000 block of Colbert, were awakened suddenly at 2:30 a.m. on Nov. 10, when two men wearing dark clothes, armed with semi-automatic pistols kicked open their front door, according to Romulus police.

The two men demanded money from the 53-year-old female resident who shared the apartment with her 18-year-old son.

"When the original call was placed to police, the woman said that a large amount of money had been stolen," said Leacher. "But when police arrived only a couple of hundred dollars was unaccounted for in the apartment."

Leacher said that once the

two men, who the victims said they did not know, entered the apartment they immediately located the mother and son, bound them, then beat and pistol-whipped them.

The men then stole money, cell phones and the son's 1995 green Ford Explorer. The car was later recovered in Detroit.

Leacher said no serious injuries were sustained during the home invasion as both victims refused medical attention.

One suspect is currently in custody being held on other charges, while police await the issuance of a warrant, but Leacher said police are confident they have the perpetrator.

"This guy we've got in custody is denying that he had anything to do with this and isn't talking at all," said Leacher. "But he failed his polygraph test and was identified by the victim in a line-up."

Anyone with information is asked to call the Romulus Police Department Investigative Services Bureau at 734-942-6887.



Fired up

Students from Wick Elementary School got a treat last week when members of the Romulus Fire Department came to their school to put on a fire safety presentation during assembly. Not only did fire fighters make it the presentation, but the infamous Fire Pup also tagged along to show the students all they needed to know about fire prevention and safety.



Society proves older women are still 'red hot'

 Ashley Lawrence
 Staff Writer

Whoever said that life is over after 50 has never met a member of the Romulus Red Hatters. This group of 37 women-all older than 50-is giving new meaning to the song *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun*.

"This entire club is all about having fun," said Linda Norman, Romulus senior citizens coordinator and 'queen mother' of the club. "It is a program that allows these women to come together for one purpose: to have a good time with women their age and be proud of who they are and how old they are."

Norman first got the idea for

the Red Hatters while she was on vacation in Arizona.

"We were coming out of a Wal-Mart and there they were-you couldn't miss them," said Norman. "There were about 15 women dressed in purple with red hats going in. It was so refreshing to me to see these women walking proudly and getting so much positive attention as they made their way out of the store."

From that point on, Norman said, she knew that the Romulus seniors needed to become red hatters.

The Romulus Red Hatters club is one of more than 30,000 chapters that have opened world-

wide in the last 7 years under the auspices of the Red Hat Society.

The Red Hat Society was founded by Sue Ellen Cooper in Fullerton, CA. in 1997 when she gave her friend a copy of a poem entitled "Warning" by British author Jenny Joseph, along with a red, vintage fedora to celebrate her 55th birthday.

"Warning" talks of older women wearing purple outfits topped with a red hat and of the freeing moments that can come with age.

That was all it took to get hooked. Cooper and five of her friends decided to dress in purple

See **Society**, page 3



Romulus Red Hatters are known for wearing their bright red hats adorned with everything from feathers to jewels.

Area schools adopt state mandated elections

Scott Spielman
Editor

Officials in the Wayne-Westland Community School district now know when they'll schedule regular elections every year, just not who will oversee them.

The board, like other school districts across the state, selected a May election for both even and odd years, according to Charlotte Sherman, deputy superintendent of educational services.

"We picked the option that's as close as what we currently have," she said.

The school district hosts regular elections in June and board members are sworn into office in July. The election date is the only new thing, though, as the districts continue the state-wide move to election consolidation.

"(School board members) will still take office in July, as they do now," she said.

The consolidation of elections

"We picked the option that's as close as what we currently have."

Charlotte Sherman

is mandated by the state, and all districts had to finalize when they when scheduled their elections by December. As far as which municipality would oversee the elections, that remains undetermined.

Sherman said that, in school districts that serve more than one municipality, the county has the ultimate responsibility for the election, although the county clerk can designate one municipality to run the election. The Wayne-Westland school district is in parts of six different municipalities and most school districts across the state lay in more than one, Sherman said. She said the county has called an election consolidation meeting for January.

Sherman said. "We won't know

the specifics until January."

The county could designate the largest municipality within the district to take charge of the election, she said. That would be Westland for the Wayne-Westland district.

"That would probably be the smartest way to do it," said Westland Clerk Eileen DeHart.

The cost of the new system is a concern to the district, according to Sherman. Since they'll essentially have to contract out the elections, it's difficult to know what the costs will be.

If Westland is chosen – and both sides have to agree – then the district could share some of the costs with the city for any election that coincides with a city election. That would most likely be a special

election, though, since the Westland City Council voted Monday night to keep the same election cycle they had previously.

"If (the district) holds its own separate election, they'll have to pay the costs," she said.

The January meeting will also clarify another aspect of the state-wide push for consolidated elections – the type of vendor that can be used to purchase the state-approved opti-scan voting system. Wayne Clerk Mary Carney said there were two potential vendors and a third possibility. Ultimately the county clerk will decide which vendor will serve his or her particular county.

Carney said she's looking forward to that information – Wayne still uses the punch card system and expects federal funding to upgrade their equipment.

Municipalities have to have the new equipment in place by 2006, but have had to concentrate on completing their elections for this year.

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Letters to Santa accepted in Canton

Dear children of Canton: Santa Claus is waiting for your letters.

Claus recently announced from his North Pole home that he and Canton Township Leisure Services are once again collecting letters from children. Claus said he once again plans to write back, as well.

Claus said the letters make it easier for him to know who's been

naughty or nice and what toys to bring—or leave behind.

Letters can be dropped off until Friday, Dec. 5 in the special North Pole Express Mailbox at the Summit on the Park. The letters will then be sent to directly to Claus. He will also take care of the postage costs for the return letters.

Jennifer Judycki, day camp

supervisor for the township, has been the intermediary between Canton children and Santa for the past 2 years. The township began making special arrangements with the postal service and friends at the North Pole 4 years ago. Last year, Claus received about 300 letters from children in Canton. All children will receive a response.

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Plymouth girl makes a wish like no one before

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

Most princesses want jewels. But all Charlotte Anne Stokes wanted was Red Faygo Pop and a couple of Capri Sun juice drinks.

Onlookers lined the parking lot of St. John's Golf and Conference Center in Plymouth to watch as the 4-year-old princess saw her wish become reality.

More than 1,000 people were in attendance, cheering with jubilant shouts, while many more had to be turned away, as the street was blocked off for the parade. Charlotte arrived at St. John's by horse-drawn carriage. Her parents, Scott and Sevi Stokes, along with police escorts, and her prince charming, who had his own white steed, escorted her.

Dancers braved the elements in their leotards, while Princess Charlotte's royal court, dressed in their best medieval garb, accompanied her on the parade path.

It was all arranged by the Michigan Make-A-Wish Foundation members. Susan Lerch, president and CEO of the Michigan chapter of Make-A-Wish, said this is the first wish of its kind for the organization, which has granted more than 4,100 wishes in its 20-year history.

Lerch was also surprised by the turnout.

"It's amazing," she said. "I love it that the people care so

deeply. The community of Plymouth is great for coming out for this special little girl. This is beautiful."

Plymouth Mayor Stella Greene presented Charlotte with a special proclamation, declaring Nov. 14 "Charlotte Anne Stokes Day."

Sheila Steger, vice-president of philanthropy for Make-A-Wish, said the event was the organization's largest from a community involvement standpoint. And, like everyone else, the number of people who came out for the affair stunned her, as well.

Lerch also said that Charlotte was amazed and that the festivities were beyond the 4-year-old's wildest dreams.

Country singer and Plymouth native Sarah Lenore, 16, performed for the crowd. Many of Charlotte's family members were in attendance, as well. They were shocked by the support and love she received.

"This is unreal," said Charlotte's uncle, Ron Hayes. "This was a last minute deal for us to come. I've never seen anything like this. It's unbelievable."

Hayes, and his wife, Maria, drove from the Windsor area to the celebration. He said the drive was well worth it.

"The Royal Parents" seemed to be just as excited as Charlotte about what took place. They were quick to praise the community for their help in making the celebration possible.

"We're in amazement at the outpouring of love and care from the community," said Charlotte's mother, Sevi Stokes.

Charlotte's father, Scott Stokes, was almost speechless.

"It's a combination of being overwhelmed and filled with joy," he said. "Wow."

At "Princess Charlotte's Royal Ball," more than 400 guests dined on all of Charlotte's favorite foods and beverages; including chicken fingers, carrot sticks, hot dogs and hamburgers. The Plymouth-Canton Ballet Company also treated Charlotte to a special performance.

While the day was celebratory, Charlotte's road to recovery has been very long.

She was diagnosed with Stage IV hepatoblastoma liver cancer in September of 2003 and has since gone through many treatments and surgeries. The cancer spread to her lungs, where five large lesions and several smaller ones formed.

Charlotte needs four complete cycles of chemotherapy to shrink her liver tumor so it can be removed and to kill the lesions in her lungs.

As of February 2004, the treatment has been a success, including the surgical removal of the main cancer mass. Charlotte is currently in full clinical remission. Doctors have given Charlotte a 10 to 30 percent chance for long-term survival (more than 5 years). The biggest difficulty is the high rate of recurrence in hepatoblas-



"Princess Charlotte" pets her steed, while her father looks on. Charlotte made her way through the parade route via horse-drawn carriage.

toma patients. In other words, the cancer may go into remission, but comes back.

The biggest issue with the survival numbers is that this cancer is so rare. It represents only about 1.5 percent of all childhood cancer. The other issue is that children are different from adults-much more resilient and strong, which means that 10 to 30 percent must be taken as a very soft estimate.

"She fought, but it all kind of went away and she grew up," Scott Stokes said. "She saw needles that would scare the hell out of me, but she was able to deal with it."

Both Scott and Sevi Stokes received support from their employer, as they each received family leave to care for their daughter.

"She couldn't go outside and play, or do any of the normal things kids do," Scott Stokes said. "We had to stay at home. It was either there or the hospital."

Charlotte was referred to Make-A-Wish by her social worker at Children's Hospital. Two volunteers went to the Stokes' residence to meet with the family. They interacted through conference calls and trips to the organization's Livonia office. And the family was grateful for the thought and effort the group put into the gala.

"They were far more detailed than I would have ever been," Sevi Stokes said. "They have a tremendously creative staff. This has turned out to be a fantasy come true, especially for Charlotte."

Police

FROM PAGE 1

Leacher said the man told police the woman was buried underneath the garage at Penny's home. Penny still lives in the same home located on the 33000 block of Ecorse Road.

Police have not identified Penny as a suspect, but they received a search warrant and Tuesday went to the home to try to determine if Penny's ex-wife was buried under the garage.

"We have the help of hydrogeologists from Michigan State University trying to determine if there is something under the cement that should not be there,"

said Leacher. "They are using sophisticated ground radar equipment to see if they can't find an anomaly."

If police do find that anomaly, the search warrant allows them to immediately dig up the cement, said Leacher.

Penny has not been arrested or charged.

Leacher said Penny denies that he had anything to do with his ex-wife's disappearance, and maintains that she ran off with a doctor 28 years ago.

"This guy who tipped us was ready to get something off his chest," said Leacher. "He was trying to secure a place in heaven."

At press time police were still searching Penny's garage.

Society

FROM PAGE 1

and topped off the outfit with stylish red hats and made their way to an afternoon tea. Since that time more than 750,000 women over 50 have followed suit and organized their own Red Hat Society.

The only rule of the Red Hat Society is that members over 50 must wear a red hat and members under 50 must wear pink hats. Each chapter does things a little differently, which Norman says is one of the great things about the Red Hat Society.

"There are no rules to be associated with this organization,"

said Norman. "Each chapter does their own thing and that is perfect in a community like Romulus."

The Romulus chapter, which began in August, has wasted no time in getting started. Norman said that two craft classes took place at the senior center to help the members design and create their own personalized red hats.

"We were able to purchase the materials for the women, so they were able to make their hats at no cost to themselves," said Norman.

The women in red have also taken a number of group trips to restaurants, to a cider mill and to craft stores. But Norman said one thing is certain; no matter where they go, they get noticed.

"It is so nice for these women

to get such positive attention when we go out in our red hats," said Norman. "People will come up and ask why they are wearing the red hats and I think it makes the women feel good about themselves."

Red hatter Ruth Bierl agreed with Norman.

"Strangers will stop and ask you about your hat," she said. "It is just a lot of fun."

And fun is something that Norman said this entire organization is all about.

"Something like this gives these women an opportunity to get together, be a part of something and not have to worry about any rules," said Norman. "Their only job is to have fun."

Program teaches parents how to help children succeed

Ashely Lawrence
Staff Writer

Educators at Romulus Elementary School are doing everything to continue the level of success their students have achieved with the implementation of family workshops.

Selassica O'Flynn devised the program to help students continue to succeed at home with the help of their parents and family. The latest workshop entitled, "Tips on how to be a successful student - Things you can do at

home to help children" was geared for parents.

O'Flynn discussed how parents can provide a comfortable study/homework area in the home and stressed that students should be given a specific homework time to complete their daily assignments.

She also suggested that parents help students develop a folder system for each subject to aid with transporting homework to and from school, as well as, keeping assignments and tests organized for each class to help stu-

dents use their study time more effectively.

The workshops have been successful in assisting parents in finding a way to be involved in their children's school life, according to principal Lynne Mossoian.

"Workshops like this help parents and students zero in on kinds of things that can really help with student achievement," she said.

"Our parents want to be involved in their children's education."



Romulus Elementary School recently hosted a family success workshop geared at teaching parents how to help their children be successful at home.

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Holiday Time

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Thanksgiving

The holiday celebrated next week is a traditional time for folks to stop and consider all there is right and good about our world. We hope that each of our many friends in the community we serve, will pause



These are a few of the smiling faces that greet customers and prepare the fresh food at the Grecian Café in Plymouth. The public is invited to meet the friendly staff and join the family of regular customers at the restaurant which provides fast, fresh foods at reasonable prices.

with us and be thankful for our country, our community and the freedom we enjoy here. It seems like an appropriate time to say that we at the GRECIAN CAFÉ are thankful for the many that chose to share a meal each week in our place of business, and that help us continue to provide a home away from home and good food 24-Hours-A-Day. (CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY.)

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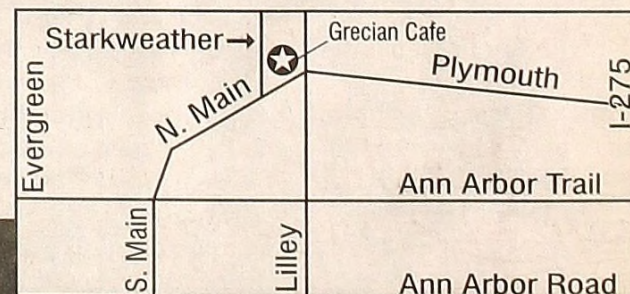
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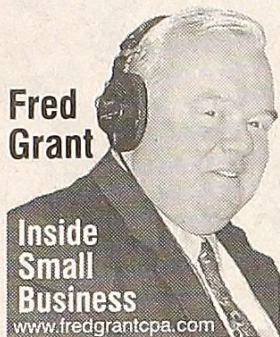
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

The Clock Is Running On 2004 Tax Cutting



If necessary, adjust your withholding before year-end to avoid tax underpayment penalties. Withheld taxes are considered paid in equal amounts during the year regardless of when the tax

Time is running out on tax decisions and actions you can take to cut your 2004 taxes. Here are some year-end moves you should consider:

is withheld. Therefore, a year-end adjustment to your withholding could help you avoid a penalty if you're underpaid.

Avoid the marriage penalty. The standard deduction and 15% tax bracket for couples are double those of single taxpayers. But that doesn't eliminate the marriage penalty for working couples in tax brackets above 15%. If a wedding or divorce is in your plans, be aware that your marital status as of December 31 determines your tax status for the whole year. Changing the dates of a year-end event may save taxes.

If you turned 70½ in 2004, you have until December 31 to decide whether to take your first required IRA distribution this year. You can wait until April 1, 2005, to

take your first distribution, but then you'll have to take two distributions next year. Unless you're still working, these rules apply to qualified retirement plans, too. Roth IRAs have no distribution requirement.

Contribute to a deductible IRA if you qualify. You have until April 15, 2005, to open an IRA and make a deductible contribution for 2004. A child with earnings could qualify for an IRA, too.

Use this year's annual gift tax exclusion. If you make annual gifts to

family members or others, make sure you complete your gifts for 2004 by December 31. Consider giving appreciated stock to your children. Annual gifts up to \$11,000 (\$22,000 for joint husband/wife donors) may be given to each donee tax-free. If your child sells the stock (e.g., for college tuition), tax on the gain could be as low as 5%.

See us now for an assessment of your individual situation and a discussion of the best 2004 tax-cutting strategies for you.

Listen to Fred Grant's radio show "Inside Small Business" every weekend on or call Fred at 734-455-1040



Understanding Your Homeowners' Coverage Needs

A homeowners policy is one of the most comprehensive policies you own. Items stolen on vacation? Homeowners insurance provides replacement coverage. Delivery guy trips on your patio? Liability coverage helps foot the bill. CDs stolen from your car? Once again, homeowners insurance to the rescue.

While homeowners insurance covers many things, it provides limited or no coverage for certain areas. In most cases an endorsement can help provide more extensive coverage for those items not included in a standard policy. To help identify if you may need extra coverage, talk with your agent about your individual situation to determine what coverage is right for you.

Jewelry, computers, and collections of fine art are all examples of items that are often irreplaceable, both in terms of cost and sentimental value. If you don't have the right coverage you could receive little or no coverage in the event of a loss. For example, if you have more than \$1,000 in jewelry you might want to add coverage to your homeowners policy. Issues related to water sewer backups and building code upgrades are also good reasons for adding coverage.

You have two options. Increasing the limit on your policy will provide additional coverage and at an affordable price. You also can "schedule" your collection. This provides a more extensive risk and perils policy for your valuable possessions.

Because everyone's situation is unique, it's difficult for agents to align the appropriate coverage without your input. Periodically talking with your agent to review your current coverage, the features of your home and your valuables can help you understand your current policy and identify additional coverage needs. It's better to find out you have a gap in coverage before a loss rather than after you file a claim.

Contact: Karen Nemier - Nationwide Insurance - 9376 Lilley Road - Plymouth MI, 48170 - (734) 454-4058.



Karen Nemier

It Really Is All About Covering Your Assets...

Whether you are a first time homebuyer or one who has been there, done that, the pre-approval and approval process can be confusing and intimidating. There seems to be a never-ending request for this and that verification document.

And verifying assets more often than not can prove to be the most difficult. It is not enough to simply come up with the down payment money; you have to verify where it came from. Lenders typically want to know where the money comes from. The reason for this is two-fold actually. One reason is to prevent fraud and the other is an underwriter's method to determine a person's qualification as a borrower.

If a loan applicant can verify the funds are coming from their own personal savings account the lender is more confident of the strength of the borrower.

Additionally if an applicant can evidence more funds than are actually needed for the down payment, closing costs and pre-pays, he is that much better off.

Therefore it is very important to fully document the source of funds for down payment closing costs and pre-pays.

The quickest and easiest way to document borrowers assets in a savings account is to provide the lender with copies of the most recent bank statements. Typically a lender will ask for two months, but depending on the overall strength of the borrower sometimes just one or even three months.

The old fashioned way for lenders to verify account balances and histories was to request a "Verification of Deposit". However, because of concern for preserving and maintaining a borrower's "Information Privacy", they prefer bank statements.

If the funds being used for down payment and so on can be shown to have been in the account for the entire period shown on the bank statements, then they are known as 'seasoned funds', and the borrower is well on his way to being approved. However, if the statements show any large deposits as part of the amount needed then the lender will request further verifications and documentation of the source of these large deposits.

Though digging up those recent bank statements can be frustrating and the reasons for having to provide them may seem confusing and irritating, it is part of the whole process necessary to secure the loan, that will put you into that new home. To contact 800-LOW-WEST.



Matthew West
Chase Financial

Risky Business

Starting your own business is always a risk. However, the potential rewards, both personal and financial, can make the endeavor very attractive. If you are starting a business, or have recently done so, there are things you can do to limit the risk.

One issue to consider is the legal structure of your business. Most often, businesses operate as sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies (LLC), or Corporations. Many factors go into determining the proper structure for your business. These include potential risks and liabilities, taxes, and costs of forming and running the entity. If there is minimal risk, a sole proprietorship or partnership may be acceptable. However it is always worth exploring the possibility of a different structure. LLCs and Corporations help shield personal assets from business liabilities. It may be less expensive than you think to incorporate or form an LLC, and the benefits can be enormous.

Other ways to minimize risks include maintaining adequate insurance, having clear employment practices, managing accounts properly, and using legally effective contracts and documents. It is always advisable to check with an attorney before starting a business. An attorney can help you determine the best structure for your individual needs.

Contact: Jill N. Goldstein - Attorney & Counselor at Law - 39111 W. Six Mile Rd. - Livonia, MI 48152 - (734) 542-0505 or (734) 330-3518



Jill Goldstein
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OPINION

Test fails objectives

The recent release of the Michigan Department of Education Adequate Yearly Progress reports show just how flawed the system is. They showed that 47 percent of high schools statewide failed to make adequate yearly progress (AYP), up from 33 percent a year ago. Now, before anyone gets up in arms and starts to decry the situation in our schools, it should be pointed out that the situation is not as bad as the statistics make it seem. There are many reasons schools can fail to make AYP, from low test scores to not having enough people take the test. In fact the participation rate proved the undoing of many schools – 110 schools still did not reach the federal requirement that 95 percent of all their juniors take the test – causing 21 otherwise high-performing high schools to not make AYP for that reason alone.

Among them were Northville and Canton High Schools. Northville, which was among the top schools in the state as far as test scores, only had a 91.1 percent participation. So they got a 'B.' The reports are based on the federal No Child Left Behind Act, which has a laudable goal. The goal of the No Child Left Behind program is to close the achievement gap by gradually raising standards until 2014 when all students must be proficient in math and reading.

It's easy to promote. After all, who doesn't want a better education for their children? Talking about improved educational opportunities gives everyone a warm and fuzzy feeling. At the same time, though, school districts are faced with shrinking or frozen revenues – they're often penalized for their good work and belt tightening that has increased their budget reserved. Their costs continue to increase, their revenue doesn't and yet these additional tasks are heaped on them, as well. Like other municipalities, they are continually asked to do more with less.

Everyone wants a better education for their children. It's most likely the secret desire of every caring parent to have their children do better than they did. But the system in place doesn't necessarily address that. There needs to be some way to account for districts that are already performing at such a high level that it's difficult for them to further advance. There has to be some recognition of the districts that are improving, but in a way that is not easily quantified. There has to be a realistic way to bring everyone to a level playing field. Anything else is just political lip service.

A valuable Senior Alliance

Communities throughout western Wayne County have been asked to help out The Senior Alliance (TSA), a non-profit organization that provides much needed services to the elderly. The organization ran into trouble recently, when it was discovered that they owed Wayne County more than \$500,000 for services it provided to the needy, but did not have funding for. The county came up with a repayment plan and the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) recommended a 1-year probationary period for the organization to turn itself around and begin to repay that debt. Interim Director Bob Brown stepped in and immediately took steps to reduce overhead and cut costs. He also asked the 34 communities served by TSA to double their annual membership dues, as a sort of good faith payment to help reduce the debt. One by one, the communities have signed on to the 3-year special assessment. To date, no community has denied the request, seven have sent in checks and the expense has been approved in more than five others. It's a difficult time for most to appropriate the extra expenditures – everyone is hurting for money – but the officials in those communi-

See Alliance, page 8

I HOPED FOR A "WELL DONE" ON OUR YEARLY SCHOOL ADEQUACY PROGRESS REPORT.... BUT THIS ISN'T WHAT I MEANT!!!



What's loyalty worth, anyway?

It's not often that I would recommend municipalities spend more than they have to, but a couple of situations have come up recently that have caused me to reconsider.

Monday night, the Westland City Council chose the second-lowest bidder rather than the lowest one when they awarded a 2-year contract to a firm to print their municipal calendar. It won't cost them a lot more money – only \$1,700 a year – but it was enough to raise a red flag with some council members, as well as the manager of the competing firm, which had printed the calendars more than 11 years ago but lost the contract due to pricing.

The primary reasons were because the city has had such a long-standing relationship with the winning contractor, University Lithoprinters, and that the firm guaranteed a 15-day production schedule, rather than a 20-day one.

A few weeks back, in Wayne, city council members faced a different kind of choice. They needed a new city vehicle, and the two low bidders were a Detroit car dealership and Wayne's own Jack Demmer Ford. The Detroit firm was the low bidder, and that was the one the council chose, pri-

marily because the difference in cost was about \$4,000. Obviously, the whole bidding process was designed for municipalities to get the best deal they can on whatever they need as well as to combat cronyism and give everyone a fair shot at earning their business.

In the Jack Demmer case, though, I wouldn't have minded had the city forked out the extra money. They're a local, hometown firm, of course, and I think that needs to be given added weight. It's also pretty clear, just by flipping through the pages of our newspapers, that they're an advertiser, too.

But that both is and isn't why I would have suggested it. It's not just because they advertise, but rather that that advertisement shows that they support the community. It's not the only one way they do, and arguably not the biggest or best way. The dealership can always be counted on to give back in some way, whether through charitable organizations – like a recent donation to Habitat for Humanity – or sponsoring portions of city events. They also, like Mark Chevrolet, provide an invaluable service to the police department: they loan out cars for use in undercover

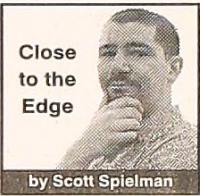
work, so the bad guys can't see undercover detectives coming. It'd be hard to put a price on something like that.

Of course the Westland decision is a bit different. Neither firm is located in the city, nor tangentially involved in helping the police in their undercover work.

Members of the Westland City Council also have a history of being skewered for their decisions, no matter what they may be. If they had chosen the low bid and the calendar turned out to be sub par, they'd hear about it. If it were a day late, they'd hear about it. If it showed up in their driveway, they'd hear about it.

It should be mentioned that both bids were less than the city paid for the service in the last contract, and the total project has dropped in price about \$15,000 through the years that University Lithograph has been involved, without any apparent sacrifice to quality. If there's any surprise in the bid award, it's that more people didn't question why the city paid so much for the service before.

I'd have thought the current council would have heard more about that, too.



Close to the Edge

by Scott Spielman

It's never too late to stop smoking

When I was an announcer for the New York Giants baseball team in the early 1950s, we did three live commercials for a cigarette sponsor per game. We'd memorize the commercials while the game was going on. Then they'd turn the camera on us and we'd hold up a pack of cigarettes and tell people how good they were. In fact, they even sent me around to the hospitals. I'd go to a cancer unit and give the guys cigarettes! Can you imagine that?

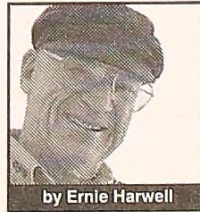
We've certainly come a long way in our understanding of smoking and the danger it poses to our health. Of course, we now know that smoking is linked to cancer, heart disease and a host

of other serious health problems. Fortunately, we also know that no matter how long you've been smoking, stopping has immediate positive health effects. For instance, did you know that within 24 hours of not smoking, a person's blood pressure is lower, oxygen in the blood is increased, and that person's risk of heart attack is decreased? Not to mention the long-term benefits of quitting.

If you're one of those people who hasn't been able to kick the smoking habit, I want to encourage you to keep trying. The stakes are high and it's never too late.

And remember to take care of your health before it's lonnnnggg gone!

Ernie Harwell, "the voice of the Detroit Tigers" for more than four decades, retired after 55 years behind a major league microphone. Today, at age 86, Ernie's days are filled with serving as a health and fitness advocate for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network, public appearances, writing, traveling and taking long walks with "Miss Lulu," his wife of more than 60 years. His latest book, a collection of his baseball columns entitled "Life After Baseball," is available at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-245-5082.



by Ernie Harwell

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Education has a long history in area

Education has taken up a lot of space in newspapers, on the internet and on news and talk shows over the last few years. Districts have been divested of their community power, sometimes divided and spread over several districts. District boundaries often confuse families who find their children attending school in a district outside the community in which they live. Bond issues and funding have become an ever more nightmarish topic than in previous decades. Many people even buy lottery tickets because they know the money is earmarked for education, often not realizing that as the lottery money goes in the front door to be added to the money allocated for education, a like amount goes out the back door to be returned to the general fund and thus keeping educational funds at their predetermined amount instead of increasing them as most people believe.

Keeping these things in mind, it's interesting to examine education in years gone by.

For example, in 1833, Wayne's first school was not a public school at all. It was privately organized and taught by Cornelia Hawley in a room over a blacksmith shop. This continued until the local folk could establish a public school. The first building constructed of logs in 1838, consisted of one room and was called simply "School District No. 9 Nankin". Then came the two-room frame school, followed

in 1871 by the brick Union school (three stories, eight classrooms and a chapel) where a three-year high school course was added in 1876. There were two graduates in 1879 and the smallest class ever came later and consisted of only one graduate. At the time the high school program was instituted, merely graduating from Wayne guaranteed admission to the University of Michigan. In fact, it was fear of loss of that opportunity that brought about the tearing down of the questionably safe Union school and replacement with what would become the Roosevelt school. University of Michigan would not support a district that did not keep students' safety in the forefront.

School was considered a privilege and students attending classes in Wayne came from as far away as New Boston, Flat Rock, Canton Township, Belleville, Inkster—and some even walked from Romulus. Some students spent the week in Wayne, returning home only on the weekends; others daily rode first the train or DUR, and then buses when they arrived on the scene.

One early teacher's "wish list" for Christmas was for a drinking ladle for the well, kindling for the school stove and anything with which to write.

Teachers were men or single women (married women were not allowed to teach). Pay in 1903 was \$37.51 per month for elementary or "grade" teachers

and \$42.50 per month for those teaching both "grade" and high school. The entire school budget for that year was \$3000. Classes being taught at the high school level for 12th graders would have been algebra review, German, Greek or Latin, American literature, geometry, U.S. history, philosophy, chemistry, physiology or geology and last, but not least, deportment.

During the tearing down of the Union school and the building of the new structure, classes met all over town. (The same thing would happen with overcrowding during World War II.) Some classes met in the Congregational and Methodist church parlors, others at the Village Hall, the feed store and anywhere large enough to contain a class.

Wayne High School principal, Elizabeth Stellwagen, required eighth graders of the early 1900s to pass a proficiency test in state and local government before they were allowed to advance to high school. She believed that everyone needed to know both their rights and responsibilities in order to be good citizens.

Many graduating classes in the early days had few young men because they had needed to leave school to work on the family farm or in industry as it developed.

By 1935, teachers had come together enough to state their concerns to the board of education before contracts were

signed. Their complaints included "too few progressive school methods".

Education is an ever-evolving phenomenon. Some conditions seem to be cyclic with a new spin each time around. Students in 1833 faced hardships just as students do today. Some of them are the same, just with a different face—broken drinking fountain, no drinking ladle; no pens,

pencils or chalk, no computer. Desire to succeed has overcome most obstacles for both public and parochial schools. Changing laws, changing funding, changing rules and expectations have created a roller coaster climate that is part of educational history, itself.



Finding History
by Valerie Latzman

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04/03

Alliance

FROM PAGE 7

ties should be mollified with the knowledge that it's money well spent.

The Senior Alliance has proved an invaluable resource in the more than 20 years it's been in existence. The funds paid by the 34 communities – which this year will total only about \$180,000 – are used to leverage state and federal grant funds that give the organization an \$11 million budget. That's a fantastic return on an investment, virtually unparalleled.

Officials in these communities are doing the right thing.

As Brown is. Some of the steps he's

taken clearly show that: the organization has cut overhead by 10 percent, reduced the pension plan by 15 percent. Brown took a pay cut when he decided to become the executive director, too, even reduced the salary for the position.

He even saved money on his personal business cards – placing a sticker over the name of the former executive director, rather than having new cards printed.

He's implemented several cost-cutting ideas in his short time heading up the organization and more are on the way. The Senior Alliance is an important organization that provides needed services that otherwise wouldn't be delivered. They're asking for a little faith from the 34 communities, and we think they've earned it.

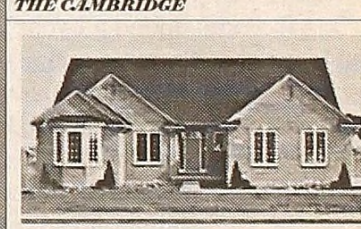
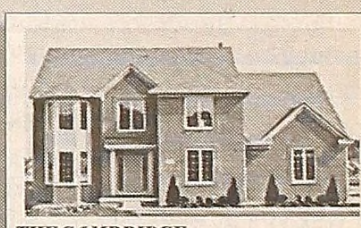
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THE SCENE

POLAR EXPRESS

is ride
to holiday
delight

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer



I don't think there has ever been a Christmas movie that has made me want to believe in Santa Clause again.

Not until *The Polar Express* rolled into theaters last Wednesday.

The Academy Award-winning duo of Tom Hanks and director Robert Zemeckis (*Forrest Gump*, *Cast Away*) team up again for an inspiring adventure based on the children's book of the same name by Chris Van Allsburg.

Zemeckis receives director and producer credits. He also co-wrote the screenplay with William Broyles, Jr. Zemeckis does an incredible job meshing classic storytelling with cutting edge computer animation. He debuts a highly advanced version of motion capture technology that uses live action actors who are later morphed into some startlingly realistic animated characters.

It's hard, at times, to know what's real and what's computer generated until you come to realize that the whole film is Computer Generated Images

(CGI). This is the first feature film ever to be shot entirely in this format.

On the other hand, some of the character movements are stiff and unnatural, much like the marionette movements seen in *Team America: World Police*. But, thanks to Zemeckis' direction, good writing and good taste the occasional awkwardness is tolerable.

Hanks was also busy during the production. He not only provided the voice for the Boy but the Boy's Father, the Conductor, the Hobo and Santa, too.

The film starts with a young boy lying awake in bed on a snowy Christmas Eve. It's late and he anxiously awaits the arrival of Santa Claus. But he's at the age where his belief in Old Saint Nick is wavering. He struggles to keep his eyes open, listening for a sound he fears he may never hear—Santa's sleigh bells.

He drifts off to sleep, only to be awakened at five minutes to midnight by the roar of a train rushing down his suburban street. The train slams to a stop in front of his house. It's not just

any train but the magical *Polar Express* ready to transport him to the North Pole to meet Santa in person.

Clad in just his pajamas, robe and slippers he boards the rail car, ready to put his suspicion—that Santa is a hoax—to rest, one way or another. Once on the train, he is met by a handful of other children with the same uncertainties.

From there, he embarks on an adventure of a lifetime. He forms an unforgettable bond with a girl (Nona Gaye) and a lonely boy (Peter Scolari). The train flies through mystical landscapes; across a frozen lake without tracks; and up and down roller coaster-like hills at heart-thumping speeds. There is also the mysterious hobo on top of the train who shares his age-old wisdom and also helps out in some hairier moments on the train.

But when they finally reach the North Pole the fun doesn't stop and the mischievous trio, along with another Express traveler, a know-it-all boy, stumbles across more adventure at

every turn in the twisting streets of the fabulous elf city on top of the world.

Finally, they inadvertently end up in the right place at the right time to see Santa Claus and hear the beautiful sound of the sleigh bells. Everyone except the boy can hear bells. All he has to do is believe.

That's the heart of the wonderful story, though. Each of the characters embarks on a personal journey of self-discovery that shows them that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe.

The conductor spouts one last existential lesson before the boy returns home, "It doesn't matter where the train is going. What matters is deciding to get on."

It's a bit of advice we all can live by, and that's what makes this such an endearing story. Everyone, young or old, can learn a little something from it. Although it's a little early to escape to the theater for a Christmas movie, don't let *The Polar Express* pass you by this holiday season.

THE SCENE

Beautiful 'Sunset' film provides tempting tropical local for comic action tale

After the *Sunset* starts where most heist movies leave off.

After a final jewel heist, two master thieves, Max Burdett (Pierce Brosnan) and his beautiful accomplice Lola Cirillo (Salma Hayek) retire to Paradise Island in the Bahamas, where they plan to retire and enjoy the spoils of their labor.

However, Max, on the edge of boredom, becomes antsy with his new no-action lifestyle. But just in time, his nemesis Stan Lloyd (Woody Harrelson), the FBI agent Max and Lola duped in their previous heist of the second of three famous Napoleon diamonds, washes ashore.

Stan is convinced that the dynamic duo plans on lifting the third diamond, which coincidentally is harboring at Paradise Island for a week on a cruise ship for a "diamond cruise" tour.

Max tries to persuade Stan that he is retired and plans to stay that way, but Stan has other plans and intends to stick to Max like glue anyway. So Max uses the beautiful island and all its lustrous pleasures to soften the FBI agent up.

The movie quickly becomes a quirky buddy-film as the two pal around and try to gain each others' trust. They do the normal guy stuff: have some drinks, go fish-

ing, rub sunscreen all over one another, shoot sharks with a revolver and help each other with a girl trouble - you know, the usual stuff.

From there, a new game of cat and mouse ensues.

Stan, looking for personal vindication more than anything else, has no jurisdiction on the island so he teams up with a feisty local cop (Naomi Harris) who hopes to get her big break when she helps nab the thieves in the act.

At the same time Lola, who is happy with their new retired life - although she has to keep busy to distract herself mind from the diamond - tries to persuade Max

to leave the diamond alone. All she wants is to add a deck on the house so they can watch the sunsets together and for Max to find a hobby.

He does eventually find a hobby but only as a means to an end. And, local gangster Henry Moore (Don Cheadle) has his own plans for the third Napoleon Diamond and wants Max to steal it for him.

Both Stan and Max must weave their way through the lies, deceptions, twists and the double-crosses in order to get their hands on the truth and the diamond. Can Max pull off a perfect trifecta and lift the third stone, or will he be duped and left scratching his head? That's the final question of the film.

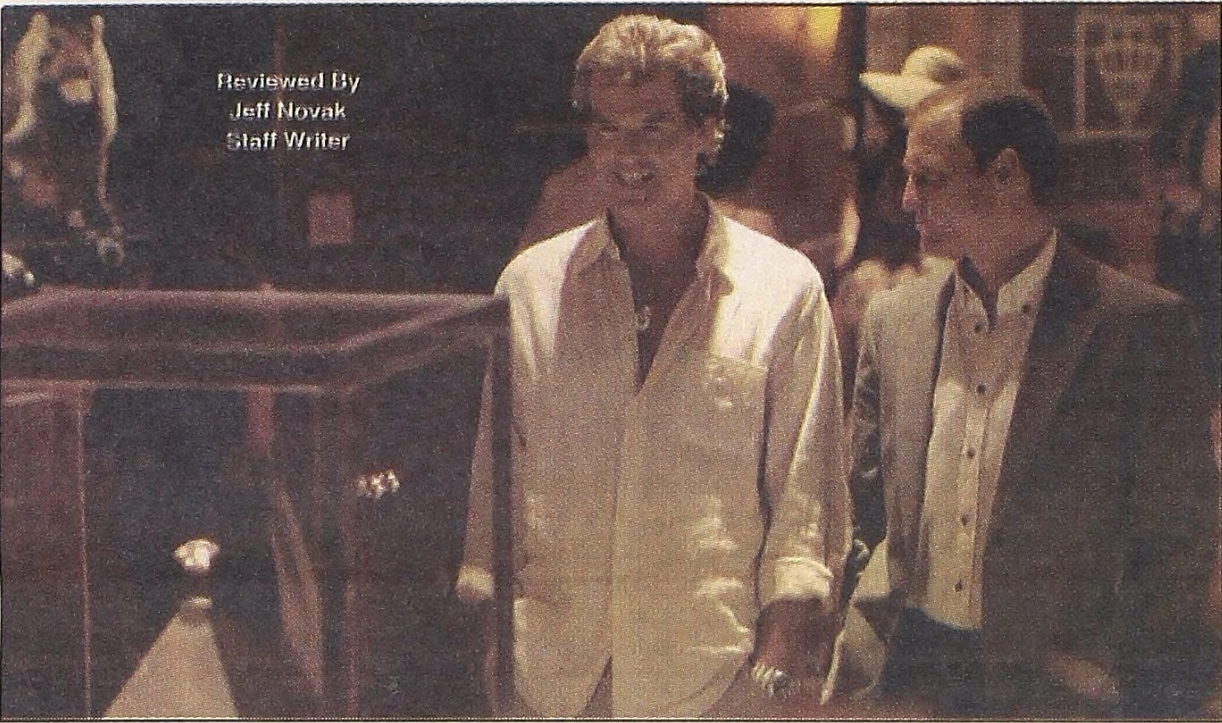
The end isn't too surprising or twisted, but fun nonetheless. Fool you once, shame on me. Fool you twice, shame on you. Fool you three times - well, best find a new lone of work.

Brosnan, who revitalized the James Bond series, is fun to watch as a player on the other side of the fence this time. He still gets to use high-tech gadgets and come up with masterful plans to save the day even if it is for the wrong reasons. It's also nice to see Harrelson back on the big screen with a significant acting role. The last we saw him was in *Anger Management* as a transvestite prostitute. He did make a documentary comedy called *Go*

Further and had a bit part in *She Hates Me* this year.

Although the movie isn't great or original, the two actors share an ironic chemistry. It's a fun and entertaining film but not a must see; more of a middle-of-the-road or an if-you-don't-have-anything-better-to-do movie.

It did make me want to go to Paradise Island, though.



Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

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BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON

(R) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS

12:00, 12:45, 2:15, 3:00, 4:30, 5:15, 7:00, 7:30,

9:20, 9:50

FRI/SAT LS 11:40, 12:05

AFTER THE SUNSET (PG-13)

11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10

FRI/SAT LS 11:10

THE INCREDIBLES (PG) 2 PRINTS / 2 SCREENS

11:15, 11:50, 1:45, 2:20, 4:15, 6:45, 7:20, 9:15

FRI/SAT LS 11:45

ALFIE (PG-13)

9:45 FRI/SAT LS 12:00

SHALL WE DANCE (PG-13)

11:10, 1:15, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:45

FRI/SAT LS 11:50



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THE SCENE

BRIDGET

bounces back big time

Reviewed By
Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

As I entered the theater to a limited screening of *Bridget Jones' Diary: The Edge of Reason*, I thought I would find myself in the middle of a handful of 30-something unlucky-in-love female moviegoers.

Some would drag their "other halves," who would sink into their seats and roll their eyes, embarrassed, but I figured most would be there by themselves hoping for words of wisdom and encouragement from Bridget Jones. She is, after all, the heroine who emerged as a modern day spokesperson for women who have been looking for love in all the wrong places but hope to find the true thing as soon as possible.

I guess I can't make those kinds of judgments about fellow film lovers, though. I realized we were all in the same boat. We just wanted to see a funny romantic comedy to brighten up a cold November day.

And that's what we got.

Audiences will be more than pleased with the follow-up to the worldwide hit.

How can you not enjoy it with the original cast returning to take part in the life of Bridget Jones?

Renee Zellweger returns as the self-doubting, self-analyzing, calorie-counting, opinionated and lovable 30-something. And of course she finds herself trafficking through a new line-up of personal mishaps and adventures.

In this second installment we enter her

life right where we left off, or close to it, in the original: happy in love with the distinguished, perfect and all too meticulous human rights lawyer Mark Darcy (Colin Firth). It's actually 6 weeks, or 71 shags as she puts it, after they started courting in the first installment. She loves everything about him and he loves everything about her, even her "wobbly parts." It appears her life couldn't get any better.

Or could it?

Despite her devotion, Bridget finds herself asking questions about life and love, again. Now that she has Mark, she's faced with the challenge of keeping him. Enter Rebecca (Jacinda Barrett), Mark's new gorgeous long-legged colleague, who puts Bridget's and Mark's relationship to the test. Bridget's jealousy sends her reeling backward down the path she fought so hard to find in the original.

Filled with uncertainty and jealousy, Jones finds herself headed toward self-destruction in the form of womanizing former boss Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant).

She now must wade through a comic maze of bad advice from friends, her own silly mix-ups and complete disasters that could only happen to our lovable heroine.

The story stretches from the quaint streets of London to the Swiss Alps to



Thailand and on a series of new adventures including: skydiving for her job at Sit Up, Britain, skiing (if that's what you want to call it) the Alps, a bad "mushroom" trip and a stint in a Bangkok jail.

Despite the unfortunate turnaround in her love life and misadventures, Jones never loses the one thing we all love about her—her self-deploring sense of humor. She keeps her chin up and conquers all in the way only Bridget Jones can. In the end she finds love and happiness and wins over an entire cell of Thai prisoners. She even hits it off with Rebecca.

Zellweger, Grant and Firth are fantastic and hilarious. The best scene is when Grant and Firth reprise their roles in the most unmanly man-fight in the history of film. If it's not better than the original girly-man fight, it's bloody close.

All-in-all I laughed some, I cried some (well, it was more like I had salt from the popcorn in my eye—yeah, yeah that's it) and then I laughed some more.

If you liked the first chapter of *Bridget Jones' Diary* then you better reserve your seat now for part two, because it's a sure hit.

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OBITUARIES

KOTZKE, Dorothy

Dorothy Kotzke, 82, formerly of Westland, died Nov. 3 at her Romulus home.

Among her survivors are her children, Sharon (David) McClellan, Gene (Bonnie) Glinksi, Betty (Jack) Biersdorfer and Larry Glinksi; several grandchildren; great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were entrusted to the R.G. and G. R. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City.

PATTON, Julia D.

Julia D. Patton, 84, of Sumpter Township, died Nov. 2.

Among her survivors are her children, Clarence and Denise Patton of Belleville and Mia (Don) Weatherholt of Ann Arbor; a sister, Ruby Kemp of Detroit, and grandchildren, Willie, Dwayne, Quianna and Shayla.

Mrs. Patton worked with foster care children for many years.

Funeral services were at the David C. Brown Funeral Home with the Rev. Mike Milatz officiating.

Interment was at Fort Custer National Cemetery in Augusta.

HUNTER, Florence O.

Florence O. Hunter, 78, of Van Buren Township, died Nov. 5.

Among her survivors is her daughter, Odelia A. Hunter of Belleville; a brother, Alexander (Irene) Wroblewski of Wyoming; two nephews; four nieces, and several great-nieces and great-nephews. She is also survived by her extended family including a daughter, Debby (Michael) Rowden of Glennie; grandchildren, Corey Farmer, Mandi Farmer and Kelly Basset, and great-grandchildren, Faith and Jay-Jay.

Mrs. Hunter was a member of the American Legion Belleville and Plymouth posts and the American Legion of New Boston. She was also active with the September Days Senior Citizens in Belleville and was a Goodfellow volunteer. Mrs. Hunter earned the 10-gallon pin for her continued volunteer work and blood donations with the Red Cross.

Funeral services were at St. Anthony Catholic Church, where Mrs. Hunter was a member, with Father Thomas H. Cusick officiating.

Entombment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Gardens.

LOMBARDO, John Swisher

John Swisher Lombardo, 57, of Belleville, died Nov. 7.

Among his survivors is his wife of 36 years, Linda Marie (Bell) Lombardo; sons, John (Gena) Lombardo of Belleville and Brian Lombardo of San Francisco, CA; his mother, Marian Lombardo; a sister, Mary Ann (Robert) Reed of Garden City, and a grandson, Giovanni Adam Lombardo.

Mr. Lombardo served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Conflict.

Funeral services were at the Northridge Church in Plymouth where Mr. Lombardo was a member and where he attended services twice a week. The Rev. Wayne Kurtycz officiated.

Entombment was at Cadillac Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements were entrusted to the David C. Brown Funeral Home.

RAK, Barbara J.

Barbara J. Rak, 63, of Romulus, died Nov. 11.

Among her survivors are her children, Linda (Tom) Robinson, Donna (Bill) McKenzie, Donny (Tammy) Rak, Karen

(John) Rampert, Brian (Debbie) Rak and Michelle (Steve Black) Rak; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandchild, and Donald F. Rak, Sr.

Funeral services were at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Huron Township.

Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park.

JOHNSON, James Clarence

James Clarence Johnson, 52, of

Westland, died Sept. 29.

Among his survivors are his sons, Gary and Carlos; a daughter, Chondra, and 15 grandchildren.

Mr. Johnson served in the U.S. Navy and was employed at Wayne County General Hospital.

Funeral services were at the Penn Funeral Home with the Rev. Arthur Willis officiating.

Interment was at Mt. Hope Memorial Park.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL

**HELD NOVEMBER 1, 2004 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER
ROMULUS CITY HALL, 11111 S. WAYNE ROAD, ROMULUS,
MICHIGAN 48174.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Randolph Gear.

Present: LeRoy Burcroff, William Crova, Randolph Gear, Charles Miller, Michael Prybyla, Debbie Romak, William Wadsworth.

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Alan Lambert, Mayor

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk

Pamela Morrison/Kersey, CMFA, Treasurer

1. Motion by Romak, supported by Crova to approve the agenda as amended.*

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-442

2. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Burcroff to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held October 25, 2004.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

3A. None.

04-443

4A. Motion by Burcroff, supported by Wadsworth to acknowledge the resignation of Dolores Witzgall, October 26, 2004, from the City of Romulus Cable Commission.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-444

4B. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Crova to adopt a memorial resolution to the family of Hilda L. Block.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

4. Motion by Prybyla, supported by Burcroff to accept the Chairman's Report.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

04-445

5A. Motion by Romak, supported by Burcroff to concur with the recommendation of Mayor Alan Lambert and appoint Dr. Rhonda Hennessy, to the Downtown Development Authority to fill the un-expired term of Mr. Ray Khami, expiring July of 2007, and to send a communication to Mr. Khami thanking him for his service to the City.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays -None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

11. Motion by Wadsworth, supported by Romak to adjourn the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council.

Roll Call Vote Showing: Ayes - Burcroff, Crova, Gear, Miller, Prybyla, Romak, Wadsworth. Nays - None. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda R. Choate, CMC, Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

I, Linda R. Choate, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held November 1, 2004.

Linda R. Choate
City Clerk

Publish: November 18, 2004

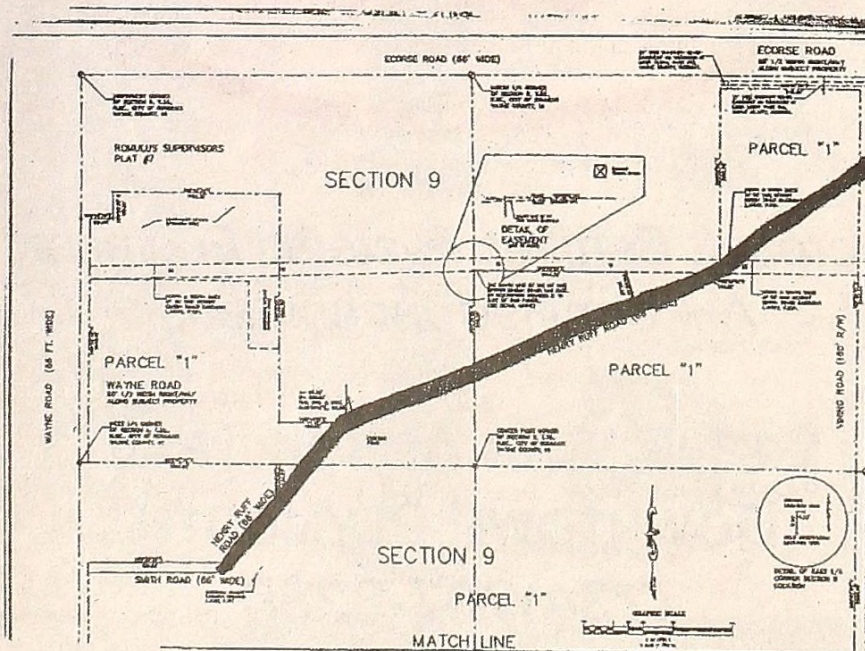
NOTICE CITY OF ROMULUS ROAD VACATION

Notice is hereby given, that the City Council of the City of Romulus, has scheduled a Public Hearing to be held in the Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174 on Monday, December 13, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of taking testimony on the proposed vacation of the following road:

That portion of Henry Ruff Road from the Vining Road right-of-way to Smith Road - along the entire length of the Metro World property.

Written comments may be submitted to the attention of Linda R. Choate, CMC, City Clerk, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174-1485, no later than 12:00 o'clock noon, Monday, December 13, 2004.

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING



Linda R. Choate, CMC
City Clerk

Publish: November 18, 2004

Sounds of the season

Salvation Army seeks volunteer bellringers for annual fund drive

Andrea King
Staff Writer

The traditional sound of ringing bells will soon fill the area as the Salvation Army begins the holiday Red Kettle fundraiser.

Starting Monday, the Plymouth Salvation Army will have 26 kettle locations around western Wayne County to generate funds during the holiday season. The Belleville donation locations include: Kmart on Rawsonville Road, the post office, Wal-Mart and Farmer Jack on Belleville Road and Ace Hardware on Sumpter Road.

Kelly Zmudczynski, campaign volunteer coordinator, said that the Red Kettle fundraiser is going nationwide. Residents can participate in different ways including

bell ringing, sponsorship and by allowing kettles to be placed in area businesses.

The Plymouth Salvation Army services Northville, Belleville, Canton, Van Buren and Sumpter townships and Plymouth. The money collected will stay in the local areas to provide families and individuals with food, clothing, emergency shelter, rent and utilities throughout the year, Zmudczynski said.

"We bring the kettles right to you and we come pick them up when you're done," she said. "The services in Belleville match and surpass to supply to the less fortunate. Anyone is welcome to ring, and many families chose to ring together. It is actually a lot of fun."

Zmudczynski said this is the

There is nothing more rewarding than helping someone in need.

Kelly Zmudczynski

largest fund-raising effort the Salvation Army has all year. Last year in the Belleville area, donations were down 50 percent from 2002. That's why the goal for all 26 locations has been set at \$140,000 by Dec. 24.

"A great deal of money is needed for us to continue our work," said Zmudczynski. "Your help is extremely important. I know what it's like because I have been there

first hand."

Zmudczynski signed on to the campaign 3 years ago after the Salvation Army helped her during her time of need. She lost her job, couldn't pay her rent, and the Salvation Army was there for her, she said.

"There is nothing more rewarding than helping someone in need," she said. "Getting out to bell ring is a great community service and a great way to show community pride."

So far, several Belleville groups including the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Trinity Episcopal Church and Youth Group, the Bethany Bible Church, Edgemont Elementary School and the Belleville Business and Professional Women have agreed

to participate. But more volunteers are needed.

"There is no limit on participation, and we don't even have 5 percent of the locations in Belleville filled yet," said Zmudczynski. "We want to tap into the spirit of Belleville to get everyone in the community to help in this nationwide event."

Bell ringers are requested to take 2-hour lots. The hours are from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. There is no ringing on Sundays.

Donations can be sent to: the Plymouth Salvation Army, 9451 South Main St., Plymouth, MI, 48170.

To volunteer, or for more information, contact Zmudczynski at 734-453-5464 ext. 32.

Groups seeking help during holidays

Andrea King
Staff Writer

It's that time of year—the holidays are approaching. It can be both a joyous and overwhelming time and a charitable one, too.

Many organizations and businesses in the Belleville area are collecting items for needy families and are asking for some community help.

There are numerous opportunities to help the less fortunate in the Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter township areas.

The Goodfellows of Belleville and Van Buren Township will be collecting toys and canned goods to provide for the more than 250 families in need around the area, according to Police Lt. Ken Brooks, co-chair of the area Goodfellows.

The group's motto is "No child without a Christmas," he said.

The collection process has already begun and will continue until Christmas. Drop-off location points include: the Belleville Police Department, the Van Buren Township Police Department, the Belleville Big Boy restaurant and any of the 10 Van Buren Public Schools.

The Belleville and Van Buren Goodfellows will also begin selling their newspaper Nov. 26 for donations.

"Without the many local businesses, organizations and generous people in the community, we would not be able to provide toys, canned good and food gift certificates to the needy," said Brooks.

Sumpter Social Civic Club, a part of the Goodfellows, members will join in to collect food and toys, and sell newspapers for donations. Items can

be dropped off at the club, located at 19867 Sumpter Road.

Belleville Business and Professional Women (BPW) members will contribute to the cause, as they collect food and clothing to be donated to the First United Methodist Church in Belleville.

The BPW will also collect cuddly new toys for the Van Buren Township Police Department to distribute to area children.

Both Curves for Women, located at 51 Fifth St., and Storage U.S.A., located at 1900 Rawsonville Road, have boxes in the stores for toy collections.

Helen McNally, owner of Curves, said that a special drawing for people who donate will take place. The winner will receive one free month at Curves.

New this year, the Drake Team of Keller Williams Realty in Belleville is working with the Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots campaign. Their goal is to fill a moving truck full of new and unwrapped toys by Dec. 14.

Keller Williams Realty representatives will make stops around the city including the Victoria Commons subdivision and the Harbor Point subdivision on Dec. 4 to pick up the toy donations. They will also have a drop-off box at their office open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, located at 249 Main St.

Of course, donations can always be made at many of the area churches.

For more information, call the local Goodfellows chapters (Belleville/Van Buren Township) at 734-699-8930, or (Sumpter Township) 734-697-7797.

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CITY OF ROMULUS REQUEST TO RECEIVE BIDS

BID # 04/05-16

Demolition List 04-01

The City of Romulus, Michigan is seeking bids from qualified contractors for the demolitions of structures on the following properties:

**35096 Ecorse
6565 Merriman
Garage (Ecorse & Wick)
35775 Goddard**

- (1) Qualified individuals and firms wishing to submit bids must do so on forms provided by the City. Bid forms and specifications may be obtained from Lynn A. Conway, Purchasing Coordinator, 11111 Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan, or by calling (734) 955-4568.
- (2) Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and returned to the City Clerk's Office no later than 2:00 pm, Tuesday, December 07, 2004. At that time said bids would be publicly opened and read.

BID ENVELOPES MUST BE ADDRESSED:

**CITY OF ROMULUS CLERK'S OFFICE
BID 04/05-16- Demolition List 04-01
11111 Wayne Road,
Romulus, Michigan**

- (3) The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and proposals and to waive technicalities.

Publish: November 18, 2004

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Cadets from the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program at Wayne Memorial High School presented a Veteran's Day ceremony last week.

Attention Veterans honored by area students

Scott Spielman
Editor

More than 150 cadets lined up in front of Wayne Memorial High School Thursday morning. Dressed in solemn black trench coats to help ward off the chill, they gave the assembled crowd of veterans, parents and school officials a sign of things to come as they presented their first Veteran's Day Celebration.

The 20-minute ceremony was a historic occasion for the members of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program at the school, according to First Sgt. Steven La Haine, who oversees the program. Like the program at John Glenn High School, it is in its first year. The school board approved it earlier this year.

"It's a partnership," La Haine said. "It's a good deal for the school and the program has been very successful."

The program is primarily funded by the U.S. Army, which pays for the instructors and most of the materials. They usually expect about 100 students to come out for the elective program in the first year.

"We had more than that at both high schools," said School Board Member Ed Turner. "It's been very popular."

La Haine said the course provides plenty of benefits to the students, as well. They are taught a variety of different subjects, from citizenship to first aid to study skills and geography. They wear their uniforms all day once a week. And, contrary to popular belief, he said, the goal of the program is not to bolster the armed forces.

"One of the things we stress here is that we do not recruit," he said. "Most of our students won't go on to the military."

Of course, the course is based in the military, so discipline plays an important part. It is also set up like a typical army battalion, divided into platoons and squads. The students themselves make up the command staff and are held accountable for their actions.

"It really gives them a preparation for leadership," La Haine said. "We give them real-world tasks. They get real-world training. The decisions they make impact the other cadets."

La Haine is retired from the army. He spent 20 years in active duty and retired last September. Last year he ran a JROTC program in Detroit, but the 75-mile-round trip took its toll. When he learned that the program would start up in the Wayne-Westland schools, he immediately applied to lead the classes. He lives about a mile away from the school.

He said the overriding goal is to help students graduate high school and to motivate them to be better citizens.

It's apparently already been successful, given the feedback received from some parents. Charlotte Sherman, deputy superintendent of educational services for the district, said she's received positive responses from many parents.

"They're saying it's doing wonders for some kids," she said. "Kids who have always been in trouble last year are in the program now and they are different kids."

The JROTC cadets will also take part in the Wayne Rotary Parade on Saturday, which starts at 10 a.m. at Second Street and Sims Avenue in Wayne. Sherman said they're also working to get the groups involved in the Martin Luther King parade in Westland next year.



The Wayne Memorial Marching band helped out during the ceremony Thursday. It was the first Veteran's Day celebration to take place at the school.

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Jacinda Burdziak
(not shown)

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Annual used sports and art equipment sale is scheduled

Meghan Chatham
Staff Writer

Next weekend, parents can earn a little money as they rid their homes of outgrown or unused sports and equipment for children. They can also find a bargain on equipment necessary for their child's current hobby during the used children's sports, play, and arts equipment sale at the Northville Senior Community Center.

Sponsored by the Northville Department of Parks and Recreation, the event is a new spin on an old favorite. According to Emily Sherman, special events and arts programming supervisor, the department has hosted more general equipment sales in the past. In the past, the event featured equipment for people of all ages. However, Sherman said that they learned from experience that items used by children were much more in demand than items designed for adults, which prompted the new children's-equipment-only format.

"With kids, every year you need to go out and buy something new," she said. "It's nice for parents to not have to go out and pay retail for everything." She added that sellers also appreciate the event, since it gives them a chance to recoup at least some of the money that went into buying the supplies that their child has either lost interest in or outgrown.

Another change from years past is the addition of arts equipment and merchandise, an addition due largely to demand.

"The arts are really popular right now, and art supplies are really expensive," said Sherman. She added that, due in part to the opening of the Northville Art House and the classes hosted by that facility, the demand for art supplies is growing steadily.

Still, some things never change. Sherman said that ski boots and skis tend to be among

With kids, every year you need to go out and buy something new. It's nice for parents to not have to go out and pay retail for everything.

the most sought-after items at the sale since children grow out of them rapidly and new ones are expensive.

The possibilities are almost limitless. From ski boots to soccer pads to paint brushes and musical instruments, any type of sports or arts related equipment could be found at the sale. Old, outdated, and heavily used equipment will be refused, so buyers should have an easier time on their search for the perfect item. However, Sherman stressed that only hobby-related merchandise will be featured. No clothing—except for jerseys, artists' smocks, or other hobby related clothing—will be available.

No matter what they are searching for, Sherman said that the response to the sale is expected to be strong.

"We normally have more stuff than we have room for," she said. "We tend to sell about 60 percent of the things that come in."

Part of the reason the equipment sells so well is due to the pricing, Sherman said.

"People price to sell," she said. "For the most part, everything is priced at very reasonable

rates." Another reason, Sherman said, is because the sellers themselves act as buyers, replacing the things they no longer need with things they do need.

However, buyers who enjoy haggling for a better deal should be aware that since the sellers price their own items and are unavailable for consultation, the sales prices are non-negotiable.

In order to participate in the sale, individuals should bring children's hobby equipment, clearly marked with the price they are asking to the Senior Community Center between 3-7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 26. In return for a 35 percent commission, parks and recreation staff will do the actual selling during the Nov. 27 sale. In order to help families price their items, price tags are available at the parks and recreation center. If an item does not sell, the owner should pick it up between 1-3 p.m. on the day of the sale. Any items not retrieved by 3 p.m. will be donated.

The sale will take place from 9 a.m.-12 noon on Saturday, Nov. 27 at the Northville Senior Community Center. The center is located at 303 West Main St. in downtown Northville, just west of Center Street. Cash and checks will be accepted.

Plymouth chamber to host shoppers

Jason Carmel Davis
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Community Chamber of Commerce, 386 S. Main St. in Plymouth, will present a Holiday Open House from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21.

The event is being touted as "Downtown Plymouth's Gift to You," as it is designed to relieve shoppers of the stress of large mall crowds, while providing patrons with the opportunity for pre-holiday shopping.

The chamber is also distributing Plymouth Gift Certificates for the holidays.

Certificates may be used at over 40 shops and 20 Plymouth restaurants.

For more information, please contact Fran Toney at (734) 453-1540.

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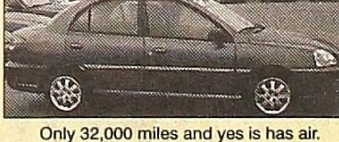
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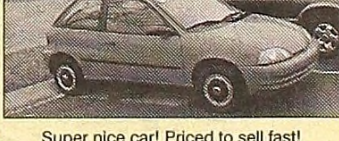
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Scott Spielman
Editor

Carol Sharp's Westland home bustles with activity.

A dining room table has been converted to a makeshift sewing table where four women work diligently to create an assortment of blankets and scarves. In another, they work with needle and thread, transforming scraps of fleece into fuzzy hats. Two computerized sewing machines churn tirelessly in a back room applying an inspirational slogan to the blankets, which are des-

igned for shelters, churches and Salvation Army facilities throughout the Detroit metro area. The blankets, hats, scarves and tote bags are stacked throughout the home in colorful hills on couches, across the floor, on tables and chairs.

The volunteers of the Warm Hearts Organization are in full swing.

Every year Sharp, along with dozens of volunteers, puts together the warm creations to distribute to the needy. Last year alone they created more than 520 blankets and 750 scarves that

were distributed to shelters and churches to go to people in need.

"We're in suburbia, here," she said. "We're a bunch of fat cats and we really don't get it. We (complain) that we pay too much in taxes and, even though things are getting tight, we really don't get how good we have it."

The Warm Hearts Organization started about 6 years ago. Sharp had a friend who had a lot of children's clothing that she said she wanted to go to people who needed them.

See Hearts, page 17



Volunteers from the Warm Hearts organization display some of the good-hearted creations on Friday.



Elaine Aumiller (left) and Jo Ahola put created more than 880 hats for the needy this year.

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Hearts

FROM PAGE 16

She put them together in small brown bags with a small, anonymous label on them – little girl, 5, jeans and a brown shirt – to give out to facilities that served people in need.

“I’d pump out 10, 20, 50. Every year it would grow as more people heard about it,” she said. “We made sure everything looked good. There were no buttons or anything missing.”

Soon other friends heard about the effort, and were annoyed at her for not asking them to help. The project picked up even more steam after that and Sharp’s home soon looked like an annex to Joanne Fabrics.

This year, the group hit another milestone. They are now a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Sharp said that would help because the group relies almost entirely on donations to purchase the soft, thick fabrics needed for the items.

Those donations come in many different forms, however. People often hand her checks as well as a coupon to a fabric store. Sometimes she even receives additional funds while she waits in line, with a cart burdened by several spools of fleece.

“People ask me what I’m going to do with all that fabric, and when I tell them, they hand me money, right there in line,” she said. “The passion comes out. It’s wonderful.”



Berta Mayfield lends her sewing skills to the project, which provides blankets, scarves, hats and more to the less fortunate.

Volunteers take the fleece and make several different items with it. They make large, soft blankets and emblazon each with an inspirational slogan. The piles in her home display, among other sayings: ‘You are a miracle,’ or ‘Anything is possible,’ or ‘Reach for the stars.’

Fabric left over from that is used to create hats and tube scarves. The scraps left over from that are used to make tiny hats for premature babies.

“Nothing is wasted,” said Jo Ahola, one of the volunteers for the group. “We use everything we can get.” She and Elaine Aumiller created 88 hats on their own this year.

Another volunteer created several dozen large tote bags out of fabric cast offs she found in her home. Each with its own distinctive personality, they will become diaper bags stuffed with the supplies that young mothers

need, Sharp said.

The volunteers put in hundreds of hours cutting, sewing, preening, sorting and packing the items every year, according to Sharp. She said she can always use more help, too. To get involved, call her at (734) 595-8305.

Sharp said the experience has been an overwhelmingly positive one. It couldn’t be possible, she said, without the help of her friends and volunteers. She also credits her husband, Ken, who retired from the Westland Fire Department, for allowing the home to be, as she put it: “taken over” by the volunteer effort every year.

“This has been the most wonderful thing,” she said. “The great part about it is that I’m surrounded by wonderful women who want to make a difference. The energy here is just so powerful. I’m personally very lucky.”



Joyce DeWulf another member of the Warm Hearts organization, said she is happy to contribute.

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It seems we're taking life for granted more than ever these days, expecting something for nothing and forgetting to be grateful for what we have. I refer to our allowing our diseased ego to dominate what humility usually does for us. I'm talking about the "I want it now," attacks.

Are you tuned in enough to recognize that your needs are met? Or, do you allow "wants" "to get you into trouble?"

Americans are followers. The old "Keeping up with the Joneses" is sadly still true. If someone has something we like, we want it and shift into action with all kinds of reasons or rationalizations: "It will make me feel better," "I worked hard and deserve that, even if it takes 2 years to pay for it." Like a child, Americans can easily be influenced, led to slaughter so-to-speak and then pay for the so-called privilege.

I am in favor of advertising with one exception—when advertising leads us to harming our land, our air, and/or ourselves.

Watching an evening news story about bottled water, now a billion-dollar business in our country, I think, "Wow, talk about selling refrigerators to the

Eskimos?" Bottled water, a billion dollar business.

"Who's at fault for the high gas prices?" the newspaper headline reads. We are. Brilliant deduction my dear Watson and correct.

However, the real fault lies with—His/Her Majesty, the Baby.

Driven by false pride, we are blindly led to believe that our life will be better, we'll feel better inside, we'll be respected, if we drive a new, bigger, better-than-my-neighbor SUV.

Not so many years ago, we got our butts kicked by gas and oil prices. Carmakers, who forever fought the government's spineless demands for increased gas mileage, decided big, box-like, gas-guzzling trucks would be cool for Americans. Oh, and it'll take profits into the billions of dollars. Hmm, at the same time the industry is allegedly developing better gas mileage, it's cranking out millions of gas-guzzlers. Why doesn't that make sense?

This being America, bigger is better, more is marvelous and the Madison Avenue hucksters dance like madmen on our undug graves.

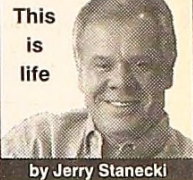
The SUVs got bigger, Jimmy went to the Yukon, while your neighbor to the Navigator and California Guv Arnold pumped up the pack with a Humvee. I

never thought I'd see the day of a Porsche, Mercedes, and Cadillac SUV. What's next, a \$350,000 Bentley SUV?

I want what I want. Like spoiled children we march to the tune of more, while we get fatter, addiction grows, disrespect flourishes and we become more self-centered.

When you break it all down doesn't it amount to: "I'll show you, I'll hurt me?"

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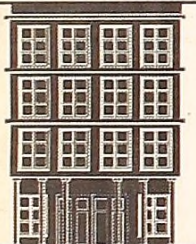
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CITY OF WESTLAND
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1987 Buick Regal 2 Door-Black None Homemade Utility Trailer-Black None 1989 Jeep Pickup Truck-White 1J7FJ36LXL487023 1992 Jeep Pickup Truck-Red 1J7FT26S4NL166336 1993 Buick Regal 4 Door-Black 2G4WF54L9P1495013 1990 Acura Legend 4 Door-Gray JH4KA4653LC040090	begin promptly at 10:30a.m. at Bar Towing, 39025 Warren Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:	1996 Mercury Cougar 2 Door-Green 1MELM6245TH608203 1991 Plymouth Acclaim 4 Door-White 1P3XA563XMF533096 1987 Honda Civic 2 Door-Black JHMEC1347HS049695
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The third auction will begin promptly at 11:00am at Westland Car Care, 6375 Hix Rd., Westland, MI, County of Wayne, where the following vehicles will be offered for sale to the highest bidder:

Boat w/Trailer Unknown None	1992 Ford Tempo 2 Door-Blue 1FAPP31X2NK185869 1990 GMC Jimmy Station Wagon-Blue 1GKCS18Z9L0505849 1992 Ford Probe 2 Door-Red 1ZVPT21U6N5201606 1990 Chevrolet Station Wagon-Yellow
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The second auction will

1GAFG35K2L7151704

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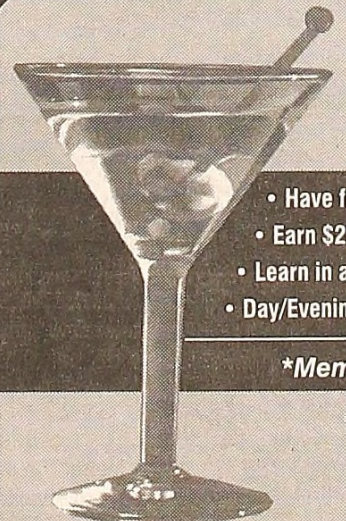
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SPORTS

Romulus overcomes Dearborn, wins league championship

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

It was a normal day at the office for the Romulus Lady Eagles last week. They won a couple of games and sewed up the Mega White League Championship with a 66-62 victory against the Dearborn Pioneers.

It was no big deal – that’s how the girls acted, according to Romulus Coach Rhonda Henry. They didn’t celebrate and they didn’t show a lot of emotion, she said.

The lack of excitement wasn’t due to bad attitude, though, because it was a big deal. They just have their eyes on another prize, Henry said. The Eagles entered this season with one goal in mind: winning the District Championship.

“I’m impressed with how they’ve handled themselves,” Henry said about her team. “They’re not getting over emotional. They’re staying focused on districts; that’s been our goal.”

Romulus remained undefeated in the White and denied Dearborn a piece of the pie for the second year in a row. But it wasn’t an easy task last Thursday;

they faced a tough adversary in the Dearborn Pioneers.

Early foul trouble in the first half forced the team into a tentative defense – one they’re not used to playing.

Romulus led 16-12 after the first quarter, but the fouls caught up to the team in the second and Dearborn knotted the score at 32 at the end of the half. Dearborn slowly pulled away in the third and outscored Romulus 18-13, which put them up 50-45 after three periods of play.

Dearborn’s Chris Falzon was a huge factor in the third period separation. She hit a big three-pointer to start things off. She amassed 12 of her 26 points in the period, according to Henry. They also kept feeding 6-foot Jessica Welton the ball inside, where she found the hoop for 15 points.

Landria Buckley, who scored 11 points with seven steals and eight rebounds, fouled out at the 6-minute mark as did Candace Lawrence with nine points and seven rebounds. Other stars such as Ashley Sibby, Janiece Armstrong and Paris Hawkins were all on the verge of fouling out, too, but Henry said it was do or die time.

With about 6:00 left in the game, Henry unleashed the full-court press that the team is accustomed to. From there, they went on a 16-2 scoring spree where most of the points were made in transition from turnovers, she said.

The Eagles toughed it out and outlasted the Pioneers to a 66-62 Mega White Championship.

“When we were finally able to play our game we didn’t give up,” Henry said. “This team has a history of not wanting to lose. They found a way. It’s a nice accomplishment.”

Armstrong led Romulus with 21 points, four steals, four assists and four rebounds. Hawkins nailed 10 points, which included a three-pointer at the start of the fourth-quarter run that put Romulus up 55-50. She also made five steals, four assists and four rebounds.

Sibby added nine points, five rebounds, three steals and blocked three shots, while freshman Jasmine Brown contributed with six points, three rebounds and two steals.

Eagles 75, Cougars 51

Romulus hosted a tough Garden City team last Tuesday.



Romulus' Landria Buckley flies by Garden City's Lauren Watts in an overwhelming 75-51 victory last Tuesday. The Eagles went on to defeat Dearborn 66-62 for the Mega White League Championship last Thursday.

They were out to prove a point, quick start and never looked back though, and sent Garden City packing. The Eagles took off to a

See Eagles, page 22

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Plymouth winless again

Whalers burned by Spitfires, 3-2, tie Bulls, 2-2

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

The Plymouth Whalers slid down to third place in the West Division with a 3-2 loss to cross-river rivals – and division leaders – the Windsor Spitfires Sunday night in Windsor.

Plymouth battled all the way. They played catch-up after Windsor's two-goal opening period, but it was Ryan Galock's wrap-around goal that snapped a 2-2 tie and put the victory in the bag for Windsor.

The first period put the Spitfires up 2-0. Both goals were scored within 75 seconds of one another.

Cal O'Reilly netted his 10th goal of the season to put Windsor on the board. Steve Downie assisted. Jared Cipparone added the second with help from Galock at the 9:22 mark to extend the lead.

The all-rookie lineup of John Armstrong, James Neal and Andrew Fournier stepped up and scored both of Plymouth's goals.

Armstrong scored his first OHL goal at 1:59 in the second period to cut into Windsor's lead, 2-1. He beat Windsor goaltender Brad Topping on a rebound that he put top shelf.

Both Neal and Fournier recorded assists.

Neal knotted the game 2-2 in the third when he shoveled the puck past Topping. It was Neal's fifth goal of the season. Fournier was credited the assist.

After that, Jason Dixon and

The all-rookie lineup of John Armstrong, James Neal and Andrew Fournier stepped up and scored both of Plymouth's goals.

Jeff Leavitt moved the puck up to Garlock behind the Plymouth net, where he wrapped it around and stuffed it past Plymouth goalie Ryan Nie at 12:38 for the win.

Whalers 2, Bulls 2

The Whalers couldn't pull out the win against the Belleville Bulls on Saturday night at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth Township.

They were off to a quick start when Jonas Fiedler knocked in the first goal of the game past Belleville's goalie Kevin Lalonde late in the first

period. John Mitchell and Vaclav Meidl earned the assists. But less than a minute later Ryan Berard, from John Hughes and Matt Kelly, knotted the score at 1 when he chipped one past Nie.

Hughes gave Belleville their only lead of the night with his third goal of the season at 2:11 into the second period. Berard and Marc Rancourt assisted on the goal.

Mike Knight evened the score again at the 15:30 mark of the same period. Fiedler and Mitchell helped on the game-tying tally.

The third frame of play remained scoreless and sent the game into overtime. But, again, strong goaltending on both ends of the ice called for a 2-2 tie.

Plymouth peppered Lalonde with 35 shots, while Nie faced 24.

The Whalers are 6-9-3-2 and are six points behind the Windsor Spitfires in the West Division.

Plymouth played Wednesday night at Owen Sound but the results were unavailable at press time. They will host Erie at 7:30 pm on Friday and Sault Ste. Marie at 7:30 pm on Saturday.

Eagles

FROM PAGE 21

until they finished with a 75-51 victory.

They slapped the Cougars with 25 points in the first quarter for a 25-7 lead. The cougars picked up some momentum in the second with 15 points, but the Eagles shot to a 48-22 lead at half time. Hawkins capped off the tremendous first half with a three-point shot. She led Romulus with 20 points.

With about 5:00 left in the third, the Eagles had a commanding 30-point lead, 56-26. The closest the Cougars came after that was within 20 points late in the final quarter.

Romulus slammed their point home with a 14-point fourth that put the game away 75-51.

Armstrong was back to her scoring ways with 19. She also had four steals and four rebounds. Sibby added 17 with five steals, four assists, four rebounds and four blocked shots, while Buckley led the team on defense with 10 steals and six rebounds. Buckley contributed with six points, too.

Junior Lindsay Flettemier and senior Alisha June each scored 13 for Garden City.

If that game was a sign of things to come, then Romulus is in good shape. By luck of the draw they faced the Cougars again on Tuesday night in the first round of the district tournament in Garden City. The results were unavailable at press time. The winner of the game will face the Belleville Tigers at 8 p.m. in Garden City. Wayne and John Glenn play the early game at 6 p.m.

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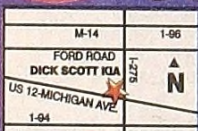
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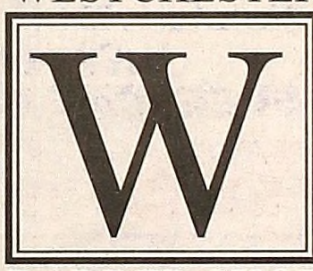
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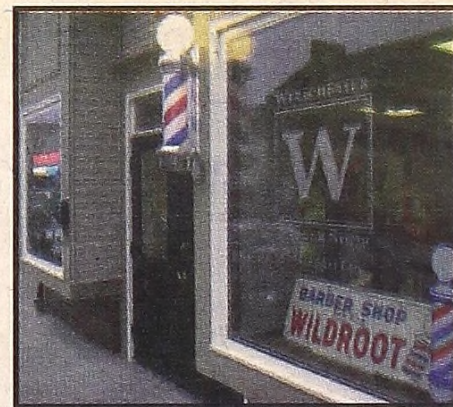
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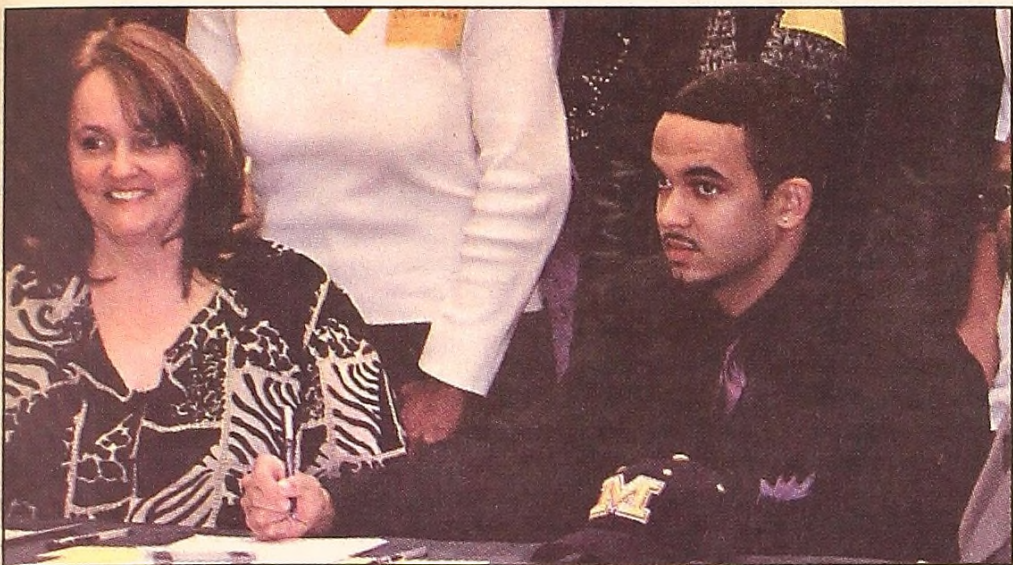
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Romulus senior point guard Jarret Smith, with his mother, Brenda, and father, Kenneth, (not shown), signs his National Letter of Intent to receive a full basketball scholarship to the University of Michigan.



The Lady Eagles' senior forward Ashley Sibby, with her father, William Clark, signs her letter to play basketball on a full scholarship at Tennessee State University.

Romulus basketball stars sign national letters of intent

Jeff Novak
Staff Writer

Excitement ran wild through Romulus High School last week.

Two Eagle athletes signed their national letters of intent to accept full basketball scholarships at their respective universities.

Romulus senior point guard Jarret Smith signed a letter to play ball at the University of Michigan. It wasn't much of a surprise because he knew that's where he wanted to go two years ago.

"This is pretty cool," said Romulus Coach Nate Oats. "He's a good kid and he deserves it."

"Jarret will be a four-year starter at varsity level this year,"

he added. "His point guard skills have continued to improve and I expect an outstanding season from him this year."

Smith made it official last Wednesday when family, friends and teammates gathered at the high school to witness the signing.

Although he may not see time on the Wolverine court right away, he said he's looking forward to having a chance.

"This has been the decision I've made two years ago. I feel good now that I made a commitment. I know I'm going to be in good hands," he said. "I'm going up there and I'm just going to play my hardest and whatever happens, happens."

He also said that he is looking

forward to reuniting with former teammate and friend Ronald Coleman who has spent the last year at Michigan, playing basketball.

Smith and the rest of the team will kick off their season Dec. 7 at Dearborn Heights Robichaud.

Following Smith's signing, girls basketball star, senior forward Ashley Sibby, penned her letter of intent to attend Tennessee State University.

Sibby and the rest of the Lady Eagles are currently participating in the district tournament. Sibby has had an outstanding year and leads the team in several categories including: defensive rebounds (63), offensive rebounds (58) and blocked shots (42). The closest team member in

the last category has nine.

In the 19 games that she played before this week, Sibby has amassed 257 points and ranks third on the team in steals (64). She averages 14 points, seven rebounds, four steals and two blocks a game, according to Romulus Coach Rhonda Henry. She is shooting 83 percent from the free throw line, 50 percent from two-point range and 48 percent from three-point land.

She has played at the varsity level for four years and is a well-rounded player and quiet leader with experience at every position except center, according to Henry.

"She has unselfishly played every position on the team," Henry said. "She's always rising

to the occasion. What you see on the court is exactly what you get off of the court. She's a wonderful person to coach and a wonderful player because of her work ethic and love for the game. Tennessee State University is very fortunate to have her."

Tennessee State is currently rebuilding their women's basketball program and there is a likely chance that Sibby, although she may not start, could see significant playing time in her first year.

"I'm excited," she said.

So were her family, friends and teammates, who were on hand for the special occasion. After Tennessee State, Sibby said she hopes to make it to the WNBA.

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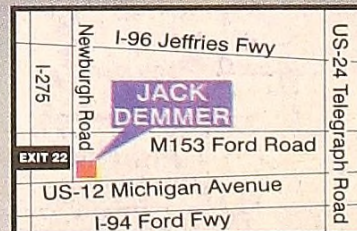
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